

VOTE - Voter Outreach Through Education Washington Secretary of State

CURRICULUM GRADES 5-7

TEACHER: LESSON 2

THEME: QUESTIONS FOR WHO?

This is a project that could be completed by students from grades 5-7. A number of ideas and activities are presented in five lessons to form one complete civics curriculum. Individual teachers are free to add, subtract, or edit as they wish, depending on their interests, time constraints, and local conditions.

ACTIVITY:

Ask students to generate lists of people they could talk to about the importance of voting, as related to their group's benchmarks. (See Student Lesson Two) This could include relatives, friends, older students (especially high school students who are or are about to turn eighteen), any adult in the school, elected officials, business people, government workers. In other words, anyone in the community could provide information about the importance of voting. For example: It might be interesting to interview high school social studies teachers who work with students just before they turn eighteen. Why do teachers think their students don't vote?

Ask students (in their groups) to develop questions they could ask. (This could be a good opportunity to have the representatives/liaisons move from group to group to see what kinds of questions are emerging. They could bring these ideas back to their respective groups.)

Have groups give interview assignments to each group member, i.e., each student is responsible for interviewing a selected number of people, using the questions that came from the group.

Throughout the project, students will be sharing their beliefs and viewpoints on the importance of voting and will be eliciting similar information from others.